

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A The welding torch according to claim 1 13, wherein further comprising a sensor ~~(39)~~ is ~~provided~~ to capture the welding wire ~~(13)~~ stored in the wire buffer storage ~~(43)~~.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A The welding torch according to claim 2, wherein a the sensor ~~(39)~~ is arranged in front of the drive unit ~~(35)~~, viewed in the conveying direction of the welding wire ~~(13)~~.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A The welding torch according to claim 1 13, wherein the member comprises a wire core ~~(32)~~ is arranged in ~~the~~ an end region within the torch body ~~(27)~~ so as to be freely movable in the longitudinal direction.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A The welding torch according to claim 4, ~~wherein~~ further comprising a sensor (39) ~~is~~ arranged to detect the movement of the wire core (32) in the freely movable end region of the wire core (32).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A The welding torch according to claim 5, ~~wherein~~ further comprising an indicator (40) ~~is~~ arranged in the freely movable end region of the wire core (32), and ~~that~~ wherein the sensor (39) comprises at least one coil (41) surrounding said indicator (40) and having an inductance that is changeable by the position of the indicator (40).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A The welding torch according to claim ~~4~~ 13, wherein the member comprises a wire core (32) ~~is~~ fixed ~~in the region of~~ near the drive unit (35).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A The welding torch according to claim ~~4~~ 13, wherein the member comprises a welding wire extending from a wire core, the wire core terminating (32) ~~terminates~~ immediately after the connection region ~~of connection~~ ~~of the hose pack (23) to the torch body (27)~~, and ~~that~~ wherein the welding wire (13) is subsequently arranged to extend barely as far as to the drive unit (35).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A The welding torch according to claim ~~±~~ 13, wherein the member comprises a welding wire arranged within a flexible guide hose and extending from a wire core, the wire core terminating ~~(32) terminates~~ immediately after the connection ~~region of connection of the hose pack (23) on the torch body (27), and that the welding wire (13) is arranged in a flexible guide hose (47) within the wire buffer storage (43).~~

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A The welding torch according to claim ~~±~~ 13, wherein the member comprises an unguided welding wire and wherein limit elements ~~(45)~~ are arranged in the torch body ~~(27)~~ to delimit the curved course of the unguided welding wire ~~(13)~~.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A The welding torch according to claim ~~±~~ 13, wherein the connection of the hose pack ~~(23)~~ to the torch body ~~(27)~~ is realized by a coupling device ~~(24)~~.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A The welding torch according to claim ~~±~~ 13, wherein the hose pack ~~(23)~~ is arranged to be adjustable relative to the torch body ~~(27)~~ so as to enable a change of the amount of welding wire ~~(13)~~ contained in the wire buffer storage ~~(43)~~ by such an adjustment.

Claim 13 (New): A welding torch having a central axis comprising:

- (a) a torch body;
- (b) a drive unit for conveying a welding wire at different wire-conveying speeds or for a forward/rearward wire conveyance;
- (c) a hose pack connected at a connection region to the torch body at an angle of up to 90 degrees relative to the central axis; and
- (d) a wire buffer storage arranged immediately after the connection region within the torch body, said wire buffer storage containing an amount of welding wire and being formed from a member selected from the group consisting of the welding wire, a wire core, and a guide hose, said member following a curved course between said connection region and said drive unit, the amount of welding wire contained in said wire buffer storage being adjustable by a change of said curved course.